



Docket No. 1232-4563

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Technology Center 2600

**Applicant** : Yasuo Okutani and Masayuki Yamada

**Serial No.** : 09/386,052

**Group Art Unit:** 2641

**Filed** : August 30, 1999

**Examiner:** Angela A. Armstrong

**For** : SPEECH SYNTHESIZING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND  
STORAGE MEDIUM THEREFOR

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 27, 2001. A Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time, along with the associated fee is enclosed, extending the time for responding until September 27, 2001.

Please amend this application as follows:

**In The Claims**

Please cancel claims 7 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 8, 9, 12, 19, 20, 23 and 24 as follows. (Amendments to the claims are should in the Appendix attached hereto.)

1.(amended) A speech synthesizing apparatus comprising:  
storage means for storing plural items of phoneme data;  
retrieval means for retrieving phoneme data, in accordance with given retrieval  
conditions, from the plural items of phoneme data stored in said storage means;

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